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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/621,975	07/21/2000	Noah P. Montena	8958-0026	5489

5409 7590 10/17/2002

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#18

EXAMINER

LUEBKE, RENEE S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/621,975

Applicant(s)
Montena

Examiner
Renee S. Luebke

Art Unit
2833



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on February 11 and June 12, 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4, 6, 8, 10-12, 15-20, and 23-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 21 and 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Jul 21, 2002 is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the integral post and connector body of claims 33 and 34 must be shown or the feature canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. Claims 21 and 22 are objected to because in section *e.* of each claim, "said first end portion of said cylindrical sleeve" lacks antecedent basis. It appears that "first" should be -rear-.

Claim 23 is objected to because in section *d.* "the first diameter," "the outer wall" and "the first internal bore" lack antecedent basis. In addition, on line 4 of section *d.* It appears that "fastener member" should be - connector body-.

Claim 25 is objected to because "the axially slidable advancement" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim 31 is objected to because "the connector body" lacks antecedent basis. Further, it appears that "other" should be -outer-.

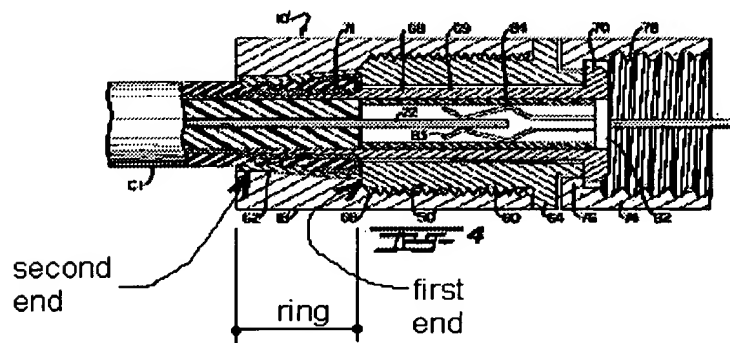
Claim 32 is objected to because it is the same as claim 27.

Appropriate corrections are required.

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 2, 8, 10, 12 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Holliday '220. The connector of Holliday is for coupling to the end of

a coaxial cable C1 having a center conductor 22, a dielectric, a grounding sheath and an outer protective jacket. The connector comprises a tubular post 69 with a first end 71 inserted into the end of the cable, and an opposed second end 70; and a nut 74 rotatably engaging the second end of the post and having an opposed second end with internal threads 78. The connector further comprises a cylindrical body member 60 with a sleeve 62 and an open rear end portion at the left end. The second end of the body member



(the right end) engages the second end 70 of the post at its second end. The compression ring (indicated at left) has first and second ends as shown. Between the ends, the ring comprises an inwardly tapered

annular wall that causes deformation of the sleeve. It is noted that the threaded portion to the right of the compression ring is seen to be an attachment part of the splicing device and not a part of the compression ring.

In regard to claim 8, the body member of Holliday comprises an enlarged shoulder just to the left of the beginning of the thread 66.

In regard to claim 10, the thinner section to the right of rib 38 (see Fig. 1 for reference numeral 38) is seen to be a relief that facilitates bending of the sleeve.

In regard to claim 12, the sleeve of Holliday comprises a corrugated portion 38, 40. As this structure assists in compressing the cable, it is also seen to facilitate movement of the sleeve.

In the remarks of February 11, 2002, in regard to independent claims 2, 10, 12 and 15-20, applicant argues that Holliday '220 does not comprise a compression

member that moves axially along the connector body. While it is true that the present invention and the reference are somewhat different in the manner of operation, the claimed limitations *are* met by Holliday '220. Specifically, the claims require "at least a portion of a first internal bore . . . *for allowing* the first end of the compression ring to axially slidably engage" the body member (emphasis added). The first end of the ring (as seen above) does not have any threads and, indeed will *allow* axial movement. In addition, the rotation of a threaded member is seen to move that member in an axial direction. Further, Holliday '220 teaches an alternative (Fig. 5) that includes an insert portion 91 of the ring that specifically does not rotate (see column 2, lines 25-27 and 36-41) while being advanced over the body member.

(For applicant's future reference, it is noted that Szegda '257 teaches that the use of threaded and non-threaded compression rings are both well known (see Figs. 4 and 6). The use of the appropriate alternative is dependent on the assembly method (see column 5, lines 1-9) and is an obvious matter of design choice.)

Applicant has not separately discussed the patentability of features unique to each of the independent claims or the dependent claim 8.

5. Claims 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Holliday '220. The connector of Holliday is for coupling an end of a coaxial cable C1 to a threaded port 78. The connector comprises a tubular post 69, a nut 74 rotatably engaging the post, and a connector body 60 with a sleeve 62 at the first end. The connector further comprises a fastener member 86, 91 (see Fig. 5) having first and second ends and a tapered annular wall (on portion 91) that causes deformation of the sleeve as the member is axially advanced along the sleeve (see column 2, lines 25-27). It is noted that the threaded portion of the fastener member has a diameter

"commensurate with" the end of the sleeve "for allowing said fastener member to axially slidably engage the" connector body. In regard to claim 26, the body member of Holliday comprises an enlarged shoulder 64.

Applicant's remarks of February 11, 2002 indicate that claim 23 should be allowable because the references do not disclose a compression ring that "is not attached to a threaded member." However, such a limitation is not found in, or seen to be implied by, present claim 23.

6. Claims 4, 6, 24, 25 and 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holliday '220 in view of Szegda '257. Holliday does not indicate the position of the compression ring prior to installation of the cable. However, Szegda teaches that a ring 26 be attached to the body 22 prior to insertion of the cable. Such an arrangement prevents components from getting dropped or lost prior to and during assembly. For the same reason, it would have been obvious to mount the compression ring on the body of Holliday as taught by Szegda.

In regard to claims 27-32 it is noted that Szegda teaches the use of a detent to hold the fastener member. The particular placement of the notch or groove is seen to have been an obvious matter of design choice as one skilled in the art would have been knowledgeable about detents and applicant has not indicated any particular reason for the claimed placements.

In regard to claims 33 and 34, it is noted that Szegda teaches that the post 28 and connector body 30 may be integral. Such an arrangement reduces the required number of parts and simplifies assembly. For this reason, it would have been obvious to form the device of Holliday with an integral post and connector body.

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holliday '220 in view of Nepovim (US Pat. 3846738). Holliday does not teach the use of a taper on the sleeve. However, Nepovim teaches that the sleeve have tapered portions 43 to aid in compression. Such tapers are well known on members such as this, as they aid assembly. For the same reason, it would have been obvious to include tapers on the device of Holliday in order to aid assembly.

Applicant has not separately discussed the patentability of features unique to claim 11 and therefore the discussion of applicant's remarks in regard to claim 2 above is appropriate to claim 11, also.

8. Claims 13 and 14 are allowed. The prior art does not show or teach a connector of the claimed type having grooves or a corrugated surface portion formed in the outer wall of the sleeve in order to reduce drag or driving force as a compression ring is advanced over the sleeve.

Claims 21 and 22 contain allowable subject matter. The prior art does not show or teach a connector having a tubular post, nut, cylindrical body, and compression ring as claimed wherein the compression ring has a non-tapered internal bore (claim 21) or a first constant diameter internal bore (claim 22).

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. It is suggested that responses to this final action be faxed to:

(703) 872-9319 or 308-7722, 308-7724

This facsimile transmission service for formal amendments is provided as part of Technology Center 2800's After Final program to improve communication with our customers. Use of this program reduces processing time, will result in more timely responses by the Office and should result in fewer requests for extensions of time. Please refrain from sending a confirmation copy, as noted in 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(b).

For formal communications, please mark "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE"

For informal or draft communications please clearly label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"

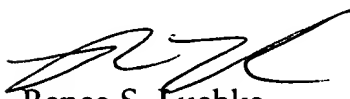
Alternatively, responses may be mailed to:

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Plaza 4, Fourth Floor (Receptionist)
2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mrs. Renee Luebke at (703) 308-1511. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Paula Bradley, can be reached at (703) 308-2319.


Renee S. Luebke
Primary Patent Examiner
September 25, 2002


RICHARD K. SEIDEL
DIRECTOR
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